



**April 2, 2004**

## **Providence man pleads guilty to firearms offense in Pawtucket incident**

**Jameel Greene**, of Providence, has pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm during a confrontation with Pawtucket Police officers in July. After receiving a report that a man in a bar was threatening to shoot patrons, police officers confronted Greene, who fled and discarded a handgun that was tucked into his waistband.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the guilty plea, which Greene entered on March 31 before U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith in U.S. District Court, Providence. Greene, 23, of 137 Verndale Avenue, 3d Floor, Providence, is detained in federal custody pending sentencing, which is scheduled for June 18.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew J. Reich said that, on July 6, Pawtucket Police Officer John Brown, who was working a detail in a restaurant at Pawtucket Avenue and Lafayette Street, was approached by a woman who told him that a man was threatening to shoot patrons in the bar portion of the restaurant. She said she had seen a gun in the man's waistband.

Officer Brown saw the individual whom the woman had described leave the bar and enter a car with two other individuals in it. Police officers approached the vehicle and ordered its occupants out. Greene exited the car but refused to raise his hands and put his hand on a gun that was tucked into his waistband. Officers drew their weapons and Greene fled on foot, discarding

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his gun. He was apprehended a few moments later and police officers recovered the handgun, a 9mm semi-automatic pistol.

Greene has prior felony convictions for heroin possession and possession of a stolen motor vehicle. Federal law prohibits convicted felons from possessing firearms. The statutory maximum penalty for being a felon in possession of a firearm is ten years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Greene's sentence will be determined on the basis of guidelines that rely on such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant's criminal background.

**Pawtucket Police** and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Reich is prosecuting it federally under a **Project Safe Neighborhoods** initiative in which firearms cases are jointly reviewed by the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office to determine where best to prosecute them. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes.

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